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HeartCode ACLS Anywhere
Revised 2/17/04

The Process
- Obtain the AHA *HeartCode ACLS Anywhere* software
- Contact an AHA ACLS Training Center about skills check availability
- Register product online or by phone
- Complete the courseware
- Complete the tests
- Confirm completion online and print certificates
- Present certificate verifying completion of computer-based work to the AHA ACLS Training Center
- Complete skills check with an AHA ACLS Instructor
- For successful completion of the ACLS portion of CD and skills check, an AHA ACLS provider card will be issued by the AHA ACLS Training Center completing the skills check

What is it?
HeartCode ACLS Anywhere is an official American Heart Association self-directed learning program. The *HeartCode ACLS Anywhere* Program consists of two parts. The first part is the CD-based cognitive component that allows users to work through the ACLS training curriculum at their own pace. The second part is the very important skills verification process, which can only be performed by an AHA ACLS-certified instructor through an AHA ACLS Training Center.

What is on the CD?
HeartCode ACLS Anywhere contains all the lessons from the ACLS texts as well as convenient references. Providers can review all the material from start to finish or focus on particular review topics.

HeartCode ACLS Anywhere uses microsimulation technology to present realistic patient scenarios. Students are presented with cases and interact with the program to assess the patient, formulate a treatment plan based on ACLS guidelines, and provide treatment. The patient will react according to the treatment provided. Upon completion of a given scenario, the student is presented with a detailed debriefing, which includes an account of their actions, both correct and incorrect, and suggestions for improvement. All appropriate reference material is hyperlinked to the debriefing so a single click will take the student to the additional information needed for remediation. References available in the program include ACLS Provider Manual, ACLS: The Reference Textbook, and 2000 Guidelines for CPR and ECC.

There are also 8 continuing education modules that are not part of the ACLS activation or fee. Each of these modules are purchased and activated individually.

Does the program require special computer or support software?
The program will run on most PCs. It will not run on Macintosh. Specific hardware and software requirements are described in the informational brochures.

It is important to note that the program must be completed on the computer where it is initially started. Work is saved to that computer, not to the CD.

How much does it cost?
The cost of *HeartCode ACLS Anywhere* is $99. CDs may be purchased pre-activated from AHA distributors. This fee includes CME/CE credits. There may be an additional fee charged by the Training Center for the skills check and issuing of an AHA ACLS card.

There will be networking agreements and a discount for bulk purchases of prepaid CDs. Contact an AHA ECC distributor for more information.

Training Centers will have the opportunity to purchase pre-activated CDs from the distributors, which can be resold to individuals, priced to include the skills check and card.

What happens when the computer work is completed?
When all required parts of the computer-based work are successfully completed, the student will go online to record the completion and request the certificates. Three things can be printed:
- Certificate that confirms didactic completion
- Certificate that provides the appropriate CME/CE verification
- A skills validation sheet

Each of these documents must be separately requested. The certificate confirming the didactic completion and the skill validation sheet are taken to the AHA ACLS Training Center where the student has arranged for a skills check session.

Users will continue to have access to the cases, the lessons, and the reference materials until the 32 hours have been used.

How long, after the completion of the didactic work, does a student have to complete the skills check?
Arrangements need to be made to complete the skills check within 120 days (4 months) after program completion.

How is this different from the current HeartCode Manikin System?
The current HeartCode System is made up of software and sensorized manikins connected to the computer. The entire program must be completed at the system computer. *HeartCode ACLS Anywhere* can be completed on the computer of the student's choice. The program is CD-based. An Internet connection is needed for initial registration and again once the program has been completed to print the certificates. If an Internet connection is not available, registration can be completed by phone.

The software program for the two (System and Anywhere product) is the same. A free software update for existing HeartCode systems will be available early in 2004.

How will training centers that currently use the HeartCode Manikin System be affected?
This new product will provide wider opportunities for HeartCode System owners. It is important to remember that the HeartCode system allows for the provider to complete the total requirements for an ACLS card, while *HeartCode ACLS Anywhere* does not. In the future, HeartCode systems can either be the current stand-alone format, or networked. Users in HeartCode system facilities can complete the courseware on networked computers and then go to a designated computer for the final skill evaluation. The system will also be able to be used to complete the skills check portion for HeartCode ACLS Anywhere users from outside your facility, with the purchase of a skills-only key.

Who is the intended audience?
HeartCode ACLS Anywhere is intended for healthcare providers who find traditional training courses inconvenient due to the realities of everyday working life. This format is not appropriate or desired by everyone. There will still be a need for traditional courses. This edition contains hospital-based scenarios. A version with EMS-based scenarios will be available late Spring 2004.

Is it just for renewal?
While the program was developed with the experienced practitioner in mind, individuals can decide the learning methods that are best for them. The AHA recognizes the value of a new or inexperienced ACLS provider participating in a traditional classroom-based ACLS class, which provides instructor feedback and group interaction.

How long does it take to complete?
The amount of time it will take to complete the entire program will vary with each person, depending upon individual experience and preparation. The program allows 32 hours to complete the entire ACLS program.

Are continuing education credits available?
Yes.

    Continuing Medical Education

        This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint sponsorship of the American Heart Association and Laerdal Medical Corporation. The American Heart Association is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

        The American Heart Association designates this educational activity for a maximum of 12 category 1 credits toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those credits that he/she actually spent in the activity.

    Continuing Education– Nurses

This program (03-NC-560) has been approved by an AACN-approved provider (11527) under established AACN guidelines for 14 contact hours, CERP Category A.

Continuing Education – Pharmacists
The American Heart Association is accredited by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education as a provider of continuing pharmaceutical education. ACPE Credit: 12 Contact Hours or 1.2 CEUs. Universal Program Number: 256-999-03-082-H01.

There are 8 ACLS Advanced Learning Modules that are certified for additional CME/CE credit. Each module is individually activated with a separate activation fee for each module and is timed separately from the core ACLS program. Basic information on these modules is available in the program.

How will this affect an ACLS Training Center?
This product will not replace the need for traditional classroom courses. Many people, particularly new providers, will find the instructor-led course the most appealing to their learning style. This new product should be viewed as an additional tool to meet the needs of students.

Skills check or verification will still be needed and can only be completed by a current AHA ACLS Instructor from an AHA ACLS Training Center. A training center may be asked by an individual to provide this service. Thought should be given to how this request can be met. A Training Center may want to plan a regularly scheduled "Skills Check" to accommodate these professionals. It is expected that a Training Center will need to charge for their time to perform this service and for the card that will be issued.

A training memo outlining the specifics of record keeping and reporting is available through the local AHA Service Center and is posted on the ECC Instructor website.

Is there a demo or tutor?
Yes. If the CD is not prepaid and activated, there are 2 hours of "free time" that are usable before payment and activation is required. Activated CDs have a tutorial available at any time.

What makes up the skills check?
The skills check, which must be completed by an instructor, will include:
- One-rescuer adult CPR with AED. This requirement can be waived with proof of a current AHA Healthcare Provider CPR card.
- Successful management of arrest scenario, which includes v-fib/pulseless v-tach and 2 other rhythms
- During the patient scenario, appropriate airway management must be demonstrated and is to include:
  - Safe and adequate patient ventilation with a BVM
  - Recognition of need for advanced airway management
  - Primary and secondary confirmation of tube placement
- If within the scope of practice or job requirement of the student, endotracheal intubation is to be demonstrated

There will be the capability to use the existing HeartCode System for the skills check. Before this option is possible, the free software upgrade must be installed. A special key will need to be purchased for each skills check on the new system. Specific information concerning this option will be distributed when this feature is finalized.

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